

CONSOLIDATION COAL COMPANY MINE No. 11,  
AIR/MANWAY SHAFT  
East side of State Route 936  
Midlothian Vicinity  
Allegany County  
Maryland

HAER No. MD-87-C

HAER  
MD  
MIDLOTH  
IC-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD**

**CONSOLIDATION COAL COMPANY MINE No. 11,  
Air/Manway Shaft**

**HAER No. MD-87-C**

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MD  
1-MIDLOTH,  
IC-

**Location:** East side of State Route 936, approximately 0.1 mile south of Interstate 68  
Midlothian vicinity, Allegany County, Maryland  
UTM: 17.676290.4388805  
Quad: Frostburg, Md.-Pa., 1:24,000

**Dates of Construction:** ca. 1880; 1909

**Present Owner:** Allegany Coal and Land Company  
P.O. Box 410  
Depot Road  
Frostburg, Maryland 21532

**Present Use:** Vacant (ruin)

**Significance:** The air/manway shaft contained both escape stairs and an air shaft for Consolidation Coal Company Mine No. 11. It was a significant portion of the safety features of the mine. The air shaft was capped by the hood of a ventilating fan and provided fresh air to the mine workings below while removing impure air and gases. The escape stairs could have been used by miners in event of an accident that blocked or disabled the mine elevator.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has been contracted by the Allegany Coal and Land Company to reclaim the site of the Consolidation Coal Company Mine No. 11. This reclamation project will include removal of existing structures on the site and revegetation of disturbed areas. Reclamation is scheduled to begin in late 1993.

**Preparers of Documentation:** Richard Meyer/Principal Architectural Historian  
Douglas C. McVarish/Project Architectural Historian  
  
John Milner Associates, Inc.  
309 North Matlack Street  
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October 1993

## CONTEXT

The air/manway shaft is centrally located among the three primary intact site features, approximately 350 feet east of State Route 936. The coursed ashlar shaft is rectangular in plan, its longer dimension oriented north-south. Adjoining the north end of the east wall of the shaft is the mouth of the aerovane fan, which extends eastward from the east side of the shaft. The north wall of the fan house foundation rested atop the south wall of the shaft. The fan house historically contained the Lepley ventilator and associated machinery. Only portions of the foundation wall remain. The large, narrow, cylindrical Lepley ventilator is located several feet south of the center of the south wall of the shaft and is oriented with its narrow side facing the shaft.

Southeast of the air/manway shaft are two large circular, brick shafts which may have been steam shafts for the boiler house that historically occupied that area. Also to the southeast is a steel pipe scaffold, the purpose of which is unknown, and a smaller cylindrical brick shaft. West of the Lepley ventilator is a slight depression containing a marshy stream bed. West of the stream bed from north to south lie the aerovane fan hood, two manway shaft doors, and an unidentified fragment of crumpled sheet metal. None of these features is in its original location. South of the air/manway shaft and the Lepley ventilator is a wooded gully. The concrete foundation walls of a water tank are located in this gully.

## AIR/MANWAY SHAFT

The rectangular shaft is lined with coursed, quarry-faced, ashlar blocks. The shaft measures approximately 15 feet 3 inches from east to west and approximately 17 feet 2 inches from north to south. Atop the southeast wall is a section of the concrete foundation wall of the fan house, which is no longer extant, as well as a portion of its brick facing wall. The upper section of the southwest wall of the shaft has collapsed, and the interior of the shaft is filled with debris. The shaft is apparently divided into two sections by a wall extending from east to west across its middle. This wall is no longer visible because of the debris in the shaft. The northern section was used as an airway for ventilation of the Sewickly vein. The southern section, the manway shaft, was used as an emergency exit from the mine.

No definitive physical or documentary evidence remains of the physical layout of the shaft and adjoining features during the period of operation of the Lepley ventilator. The Lepley ventilator was contained within a brick fan house that adjoined the south wall of the shaft. Only a portion of the foundation walls of this structure are extant. The fan was apparently connected to the air shaft by a metal discharge chimney that connected the center chamber of the fan house to the air shaft.<sup>1</sup> No remnants of this discharge chimney have been identified.

While the aerovane fan was in operation, the airway section of the shaft was covered by the hood of the aerovane fan. The southern portion of the shaft, the manway shaft, contains a series of steps and landings, extending 210 feet to the bottom of the shaft. According to the present owner, the manway opening was enclosed by a pair of metal doors, designed to open in the event of a mine explosion.<sup>2</sup> These doors are presently located approximately 115 feet southwest of the manway shaft. The western portion of the manway shaft opening was capped by a small, shed

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<sup>1</sup>Donna M. Ware, *Pumping Shaft, New Shaft, and Consolidation Coal Co. Mine No. 11*, Inventory Form for Maryland State Historic Sites Survey (Filed at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland), 3.

<sup>2</sup>Phillip Jenkins, telephone conversation, May 14, 1993, Frostburg, Maryland.

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roofed brick structure with a concrete slab roof.<sup>3</sup> This structure had a doorway in its west wall, available from three concrete steps that adjoined the north foundation wall of the Lepley ventilator house.

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<sup>3</sup>This structure is shown in photographs that accompany the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for Consolidation Coal Company Mine No. 11 (Ware, 1981).

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Interviews:**

Jenkins, Phillip. Telephone conversation, May 14, 1993. Frostburg, Maryland.

**Primary and unpublished sources:**

Ware, Donna M. *Pumping Shaft, New Shaft, and Consolidation Coal Co. Mine No. 11*. Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey. Site reference: AL-V-A-024. Filed at the Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland, 1981.